

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 1 to read as follows:

AC
--1. (amended) A pleated filter cartridge for removing particulates from liquid, the pleated filter cartridge being of the type including a perforate core, a pair of endcaps, and an annular non-woven filter element around the core formed by substantially axially-parallel pleats of at least one sheet of filter material, the filter element having opposite ends each in sealing engagement with one of the endcaps, characterized in that the filter material is a non-perforated non-woven material of flash-spun plexifilamentary high-density polyethylene fibrils, the filter material having a pressure drop of less than 4 psid at a flow rate of 10 gal/hr and a filtration efficiency of at least 98% of 1-2 micron particulates at a pressure differential of 30 psid.--

Amend claim 14 to read as follows:

A3
--14. (amended) The pleated filter cartridge of claim 13 wherein:

- the high-density polyethylene filter material has a softening temperature range;
- the polyethylene mesh has a softening temperature range lower than the lower end of the softening temperature range of the high-density polyethylene filter material; and
- the polyethylene mesh is tack-point interconnected to the filter material without having compromised the filter material.--

Amend claim 24 to read as follows:

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--24. (amended) The annular pleated filter element of claim 23 wherein:

- the high-density polyethylene filter material has a softening temperature range;
- the polyethylene mesh has a softening temperature range lower than the lower end of the softening temperature range of the high-density polyethylene filter material; and
- the polyethylene mesh is tack-point interconnected to the filter material without having compromised the filter material.--

Add the following dependent claims:

KS
--30. The pleated filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein the at least one sheet of filter material is a single sheet of the filter material and such sheet has a thickness of less than about 0.15 mm, whereby the total thickness of the filter material is less than about 0.15 mm.--